



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CURRENCY SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO PRISON PLUS FORFEITS CASH AND A VEHICLE**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jesus Manuel Santiago-Marquez, 26, of Mexico, was sentenced here this week by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to 24 months in prison and was also ordered to forfeit \$454,288 in U.S. Currency and a 2002 Ford Mondeo after pleading guilty on August 18, 2005 to Bulk Cash Smuggling.

On April 10, 2005, Santiago-Marquez attempted to drive his 2002 Ford Mondeo from the United States to Mexico at the port of entry near Nogales, Ariz. After inspectors received an unusually high density reading on the passenger side of the vehicle, Santiago-Marquez was sent to secondary inspection. While in secondary inspection, a currency detecting dog alerted to both Santiago-Marquez and his vehicle. Upon further inspection of the vehicle, agents found a compartment concealed behind the vehicle's rear tire. Agents removed 23 packages from the compartment containing a total of \$454,288 in U.S. currency. Santiago-Marquez later admitted that he helped package the money and pack the vehicle. He also admitted that he thought there was approximately \$400,000 in the vehicle and that the money was from marijuana proceeds.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Nogales, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Daniel J. Santander, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-906-TUC-CKJ(GEE)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-201(Santiago\_Marquez)

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